

Centennial year of NASS and the Association is meeting in celebration of this very special milestone.

In 1904, NASS was organized and approved for assembly at the World's Fair in the administration building of the Fair—Brookings Hall—which still stands today and is in constant use by Washington University. The year 2004 also marks the 150th anniversary of Washington University. I am pleased to honor this fine institution and recognize its importance in the history of NASS.

Having left the organization as its president-elect, I continue to remember NASS as the most helpful and personally fulfilling professional organization I have been a member of.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the United States Congress who also served as Secretaries of State—Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Tom Cole of Oklahoma, Katherine Harris of Florida, Jim Langevin of Rhode Island and Candice Miller of Michigan—I gratefully acknowledge the value of NASS to us personally and to the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND  
RETIREMENT OF CAROL MADISON—EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
THE ILLINOIS CENTER FOR AUTISM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of Carol Madison, Executive Director of the Illinois Center for Autism for 27 years.

The Illinois Center for Autism, ICA, is a non-profit, community-based mental health treatment, special education center, and vocational training site, dedicated to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of people with autism and help them achieve the highest level of independence possible in their home, school, and community. Students/Clients must be diagnosed as autistic and/or exhibit characteristics, such as severe communication disorders, severe behavioral disorders, uneven intellectual skills, and socially inappropriate behaviors.

Under Carol's direction and service as the ICA's first Executive Director, the Illinois Center for Autism was established in the fall of 1977 to provide a Special Day School Program. At that time, it was serving only eight children with autism.

In January 1978, the Illinois Center for Autism was incorporated as a 501c (3) not-for-profit corporation. The ICA's mission then was to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of children with autism. ICA received accreditation in 1992 from the North Central Association (NCA). To this day, ICA has maintained its accreditation and serves both adults and children throughout Southern Illinois.

In 1992, under Carol's leadership, the ICA began an innovative initiative. With Carol's careful hand guiding the program, the ICA opened a gourmet Italian take-out eatery called Pasta Fare. Pasta Fare provides an ideal site for food service training for the ICA's clients. They assist in all aspects of the business, learning to apply their functional aca-

demic, social and communications skills in a work setting. All clients at Pasta Fare are employees of the Illinois Center for Autism. Clients are transitioned into the community for further competitive employment opportunities and many are placed into food service and related occupations.

Not only has Carol and the ICA been able to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of hundreds of people with autism, she and the Center have also helped them to become productive members of society.

Carol has devoted her life to serving the needs of the disabled community. She has served as a Site Visitor for the US Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools program and as a Hearing Officer with the Illinois State Board of Education from 1977–1987. She has consulted with the Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens and served on the Illinois State Board of Education Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities from 1992–1999. She has served as the Director of the National Association of Private Education Centers and was the Chairman of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission.

The future holds great promise for the Illinois Center for Autism and the people it serves and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Carol for the work she has done on behalf of hundreds of young people in our area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Carol Madison and wish her and her family the very best in the future.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The bill includes several projects that will benefit my district.

Imperial County in my Southern California district is a desert farming community located on the California-Mexico border. The county is one of the top agricultural counties in California. It produced over \$1.2 billion of agricultural products in 2002. The county is a leading producer of agronomic and winter vegetable crops, as well as livestock.

This bill contains language that directs the Under Secretary for Rural Development to give consideration to projects that would directly benefit my constituents:

The Imperial Valley Sugarcane/Renewable Energy/Ethanol Project—Environmental and water conservation issues are of grave concern to the agricultural producers in my district. Alternative, higher-value commodities

must become available to ensure the best economic and environmental use of the land and water. This rural development project could provide such an alternative to many of our farmers while producing sugar, ethanol, and renewable energy. My constituents are pursuing an economic development project to develop sugarcane production and processing capabilities, along with ethanol and renewable energy production, in the Imperial Valley. The number one crop in the Imperial Valley is alfalfa, which has a much lower dollar value than sugarcane. Due to a rural-to-urban water transfer that has reduced the number of acres that may be planted in the Valley, my rural constituents searched for an alternative to alfalfa—and found it in sugarcane. The economic conversion project includes development of sugarcane acreage in the Valley, as well as construction of a new sugarcane processing facility on the site of an existing sugar beet processing facility in the Valley. The current sugar beet facility, which currently only operates four months of the year, employs approximately 300 people (100 full-time and 200 seasonal employees). Opening the new sugarcane processing facility would allow year-round processing at the site, dramatically increasing the number of full-time job opportunities at the facility. The project would also allow the creation of a power plant reliant on renewable fuels, principally from residue from the production and processing of sugarcane. Further, the project includes plans for ethanol production from the sugarcane. Due to California's phase-out of MTBE as a gasoline oxygenate, the state requires a stable supply of ethanol, and a local supply will dramatically reduce transportation costs for ethanol purchasers. Sugarcane-to-ethanol production in the Imperial Valley will greatly benefit the economic well-being of my constituents—as well as reduce renewable and clean fuel costs for the nation while protecting environmental quality.

Environmental Technology Business Park—The County of Imperial is working to catalyze development of an EcoPark for location of renewable energy and “green technology” industrial projects. An investment in this project would leverage funding already allocated for development of biomass-to-ethanol projects in Imperial County over the past three years by local, state and federal agencies. The EcoPark is expected to attract more than \$400 million in private investment and sustain more than 4,000 jobs in the related industry and agricultural sectors. Further, a variety of new and established firms are interested in bringing additional technologies to the EcoPark, such as methane digesters, minibiorefineries for biodiesel, nutraceutical manufacture, liquid natural gas production, and solar power generation. The EcoPark will be a beacon of economic and environmental development for renewable fuels projects.

Desert Farming Institute and The National Center for the Study of International Trade in Agriculture—My constituents are interested in establishing a “California Desert Farming Institute” at the San Diego State University's Imperial Valley campus. The Imperial Valley of California is one of the most successful examples of desert farming in the world. San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, is located on the border with Mexico and thus a logical site for